

REMARKS

The restriction and species election requirements of June 15, 2004, have been received and reviewed.

Claims 1-43 are currently pending and under consideration in the above-referenced application, each being subject to both restriction and species election requirements.

Restriction Requirement

In the restriction requirement, the Office has restricted claims 1-43 as follows:

Group I – Claims 1-23, drawn to a method, classified in Class 451,
Subclass 41; and

Group II – Claims 24-43, drawn to an apparatus, classified in Class
125, Subclass 13.01.

An election is hereby made, without traverse, to prosecute claims 1-23 of Group I.

Election of Species Requirement

With respect to the species election requirement, the Office has identified the following species of invention:

Species 1: scribing, then severing the substrate;

Species 2: severing along the third street at a different time; and

Species 3: substantially severing the substrate without scribing.

An election is hereby made, without traverse, to prosecute the invention of Species 2.

It is respectfully submitted that each of claims 1-23 reads on the invention of Species 2. More specifically, the act of at least partially severing a semiconductor substrate along a third street at a different time than the semiconductor substrate is at least partially severed along a first street or a second street is within the scope of each of these claims.

It is also respectfully submitted that, in addition to reading on Species 1, each of claims 1-13, 15, 16, and 18-23 reads on Species 1, as scribing a semiconductor substrate along at least one street, then severing the substrate is within the scope of each of these claims.

In addition, it is submitted that each of claims 1-23 reads on Species 3, as none of these claims precludes substantially severing a semiconductor substrate along at least one street. In view of the foregoing, it is also respectfully submitted that each of claims 1-13, 15, 16, and 18-23 is generic to each of Species 1, 2, and 3.

Information Disclosure Statement

Please note that Information Disclosure Statements were filed in the above-referenced application on November 5, 2003, and April 16, 2004, but that the undersigned attorney has not yet received any indication that the references cited in these Information Disclosure Statement have been considered in the above-referenced application. It is respectfully requested that the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statements of November 5, 2003, and April 15, 2004, be considered and made of record in the above-referenced application and that an initialed copy of the Forms PTO-1449 and PTO/SB/08A that respectively accompanied these Information Disclosure Statements be returned to the undersigned attorney as evidence of such consideration.

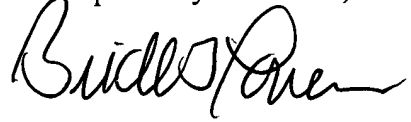
Preliminary Amendment

Also, please note that a Preliminary Amendment was filed in the above-referenced application on March 4, 2004, but that the undersigned attorney has not yet received any acknowledgement that the Preliminary Amendment has been entered into the Office file for the above-referenced application. If, for some reason, the Preliminary Amendment has not yet been entered into the Office file, the undersigned attorney would be happy to provide the Office with a true copy thereof.

CONCLUSION

An early and favorable action on the merits of claims 1-23 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brick G. Power", written over a horizontal line.

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